

Cork University Hospitals Group
Wilton
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Date: 3rd November 2023

PQ – 41801/23

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health whether he is aware of issues with staff car parking in Cork University Hospital and Cork University Maternity Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Gould

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

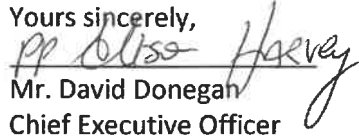
CUH Group recognise the importance of the issues raised which are not unique to Cork, and they are working hard to address these concerns. There are few hospitals with what they would consider sufficient car parking for staff and patients, though CUH Wilton has more (and more free) access than most other similar hospitals in Ireland or local hospitals in Cork City. HSE Estates identified the desirability of multi-story car parks at CUH though for unknown reasons, while included in the development control plan for the campus created in 2010, these were never progressed. Cork Council are understandably keen to see more sustainable transport solutions and not always supportive of expanding car parking capacity. Cork Fire Service are no longer in favour of underground car parking under new capital developments either.

Important capital development work (including paediatric wing, helipad and surgical hub) is finally proceeding at CUH which will unfortunately reduce capacity at CUH during the work, though some capacity will return when the construction is complete. HSE Estates and CUHG have been piloting new (free to users) park and ride capacity over the summer, and additional (albeit off site) capacity has been sourced to mitigate the anticipated loss. Sufficient additional capacity off site has been secured to mean that overall, the same capacity is available, though it is accepted that there will be more of an inconvenience during the works.

All options remain on the table to mitigate and improve the situation, and difficult choices (such as prioritising spaces for those who live further away, or who work certain clinical shifts, and introducing charges for current free spaces) may need to be made. A very short pause (weeks) to the capital work, to enable better engagement with unions on the issues has been agreed, though it is unlikely that any mitigation will be entirely to everyone's universal satisfaction. We hope that adequate arrangements can be set out to minimise disruption during the capital works that do need to proceed urgently.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. David Donegan', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. David Donegan
Chief Executive Officer